

REMARKS

Entry of this amendment, and reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The undersigned gratefully acknowledges the courtesies extended by the Examiner during the telephonic interview of January 29, 2004. The Examiner and the undersigned discussed the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections of claims 115, 117 and 119-122, the proposed changes to claims 121 and 122, and the obviousness-type double patenting rejections of U.S. Patent Nos. 6,224,912 and 5,888,497. It was agreed that the presently amendment set of claims would be allowable upon submission of a terminal disclaimer to overcome the obviousness-type double patenting rejections, as there is support in earlier filed applications from which this application claims priority under 35 U.S.C. §120, especially Examples 9 and 10. The terminal disclaimers are attached.

The prior Rule 116 amendment was not entered, so the amendments to the claims are represented herein.

Claim 115 was amended to replace the term "recovering" with --collecting-- to use the same term that is in Example 10, which is found in U.S. Patent No. 5,888,497 filed November 7, 1996 (as serial no. 08/745,063). This application claims priority from that patent under 35 U.S.C. §120.

It is believed that the amendments to claims 121 and 122 render the 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph rejections moot.

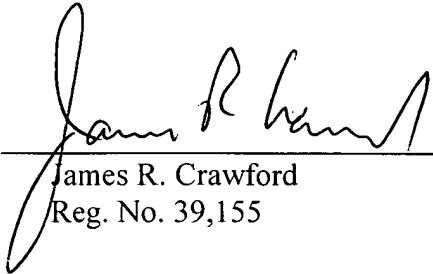
Applicants expressly reserve the right to prosecute all presently unclaimed subject matter in related applications.

In view of the foregoing, allowance is respectfully requested.

If any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is authorized to charge deposit account no. 50-0624.

Respectfully submitted,

FULBRIGHT & JAWORSKI, LLP

By: 
James R. Crawford
Reg. No. 39,155

666 Fifth Avenue
New York, New York 10103
(212) 318-3148